CLAIMS:

57. (Amended) A method of providing a customer with a demanded product, the method comprising: receiving a forecasted demand from at least one customer for delivery of a specified product at a first time, the first time requiring a supplier to supply the specified product by a second time;

   receiving the product from the supplier before the second time without charging the supplier an extra fee for receiving the product before the second time; and

   delivering the product to the customer at approximately the second time.

126. (Amended) A system for providing a customer with a demanded product, the system comprising a supply chain server coupled to at least one customer, at least one supplier, and at least one logistics provider, the supply chain server including a messaging services system and an ERP system, wherein

   the messaging system receives a forecasted demand from the at least one customer for delivery of a specified product at a first time, the first time requiring a supplier to supply the specified product by a second time;

   the ERP system controlling the logistics provider to receive the product from the supplier before the second time without charging the supplier an extra fee for receiving the product before the second time; and

   the ERP system further controls the logistics provider to deliver the product to the customer at approximately the second time.